Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee
Annual Report
2001-02

The Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee's principal purpose is to advise the State Board of Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction on educational technology matters. This includes providing information and recommendations to local schools and advice to the Department of Education on technology policy and funding. Under Article V, Section 6, "VETAC shall furnish all representatives an executive summary of all actions taken by the membership during the year. Representatives shall forward this report and any supportive material to their respective organizations."

The 2001-02 VETAC members have enthusiastically embraced the task of providing professional leadership for Virginia's Public Schools. They have dedicated much time and given willingly of themselves to serve as active participants in the important process of sharing information and ideas. The membership of this organization represents a wide variety of stakeholders. Collectively, the group represents numerous professional entities who have an interest in the current and future applications of technology to support and enhance education. Each VETAC member should be commended for his or her assistance in meeting the goals established for VETAC this year.

VETAC members continued the process designed to help them keep abreast of current trends in the field of technology and be actively engaged in the development of a shared vision by inviting speakers to share innovative programs and visiting schools that have employed technology to meet student needs. Toward this goal, members were kept appraised of progress in several important areas, including the State Technology Plan, SOL Web-based Technology Initiative, Marco Polo Internet Training, e-rate funding and federal and state legislation related to technology. In-depth informational programs were presented on the following topics:

- Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership (VITAL) funded by a Gates Grant. The focus of this project is to provide professional development experiences for administrators geared toward the leadership issues they face.
- Data Warehousing which helps school divisions sort large amounts of student data related to instruction and achievement in order to extract important information for planning and decision making.
- SOL Tracker® which is a data analysis tool and student tracking system correlated with the Virginia Standards of Learning.

To provide additional insight into innovative technology programs in the state, two committee meetings were held in schools providing tours of facilities and descriptions of the programs offered:

- On February 12, VETAC members toured the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Relations in Richmond. Established in 1991, the Governor's School is a unique regional public school offering a

rigorous and accelerated preparatory program emphasizing government, international studies, science, mathematics, foreign language and literature. The curriculum is supported by leading edge technology including a voice, video and data communications system.

- On May 7, the committee met at Goochland High School. Mr. Tom DeWeerd demonstrated the Online Lesson Planner, a web-based planner, available free to all Virginia School Systems. VETAC members also received a guided tour of the building, including classroom areas, the Technology Center and the TV Studio.

In order to recognize VETAC members who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, significant VETAC participation and exemplary commitment to the mission and goals of the organization, the VETAC Leadership Award was created. This award is presented annually at the Technology Leadership Conference sponsored by the Department of Education. The recipients for 2001-02 were: Dr. Glen Bull, Dr. J. Larry Hoover, Dr. Jane James, Dr. William Johnston and William R. Thomas. VETAC will continue to reward deserving members with this recognition.

VETAC instituted communication channels to assist and enhance the flow of information to interested constituents throughout the commonwealth. The secretary began distribution of summary information following the meeting agenda, in addition to the formal meeting minutes. This outline-style summary will make it easier for VETAC representatives to share relevant information with the groups they represent. The VETAC web page continues to provide information to committee members and interested parties. The web address is: www.veta.org/vetac.

VETAC membership will resume study next year of the Virginia Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel (TSIP.) It has been suggested that VETAC correlate the existing standards with the recently adopted national Technology Standards for School Administrators (TSSA.) It is the committee's goal to make suggestions to the superintendent on appropriate measures to assure that all Virginia administrators are adequately prepared to assume a leadership role in this area. VETAC will also continue studying the original TSIP standards for teachers, with a focus on standards that are specific to content areas. Committee members from organizations representing the various content areas will be asked to serve on a sub-committee to bring forth recommendations to VETAC.

VETAC will continue to support and make contributions to the State Technology Plan, the SOL Web-based Technology Initiative and the activities related to technology included in No Child Left Behind. The committee will be aware of legislative issues affecting technology implementation in Virginia and provide assistance and support to the Department of Education as appropriate. VETAC continues to be a strong advocate for unified technology programs for all students and instructional personnel in Virginia.

The Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee appreciates the contributions of each member. The unique perspective of individuals and the groups they represent merge within this forum to produce a vibrant, active force supporting the ongoing development of technology resources supporting education in Virginia.